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Maine. "The Torrent and the Night Before," as the volume was then called, from its first and last poems, was reviewed at some length in *THE SEWANEE REVIEW* for April, 1897, nearly nine years ago, where the merits of many of these poems were then pointed out, and the author praised for "a knowledge of the technique of his art and a love for it." The poem which now gives the title to this present volume, "The Children of the Night," was expressly singled out in that review, and many of the sonnets were praised, especially those to Matthew Arnold, Crabbe, Hood, Thomas Hardy, Verlaine, and "Horace to Leuconoë." We call renewed attention both to the reissue of these poems and to the discriminating review of them at the time.

ONE HUNDRED BEST AMERICAN POEMS. Selected by John R. Howard.  
New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

The "One Hundred Best American Poems," selected by John R. Howard, is a companion booklet to the attractive "One Hundred Best English Poems" issued by the Crowells a year ago, but with more questionable results. The one hundred poems are very evenly distributed among sixty-two "American poets," and an analysis of this distribution is not without interest.

The frontispiece, a picture of Longfellow, shows the emphasis laid by the collector on that representative of American home-life and culture, which is borne out by the inclusion of as many as six poems from Longfellow. These six are: "Hymn to the Night," "The Arsenal at Springfield," "The Fire of Driftwood," "Resignation," "Sea-weed," and "The Day is Done." Five poems represent Bryant, there are five also from Emerson and five from Whittier. Holmes and Lowell have four each. Poe and Whitman have each three and Lanier two. Also the following have been accorded two selections: Emily Dickinson, Joseph Rodman Drake, Fitz-Greene Halleck, Paul Hamilton Hayne, T. Buchanan Read, Richard Henry Stoddard, Bayard Taylor, and N. P. Willis. This leaves forty-five names represented by one poem each.

It is a valuable collection, but from the nature of the case, it is a more difficult collection to make than the one hundred poems from English literature. The history of American poet-

ry is, after all, in its length and breadth the history of the commonplace— aspiration and effort without corresponding achievement. So much of it is on the same level— respectable, dignified, but not commanding. And so against the forty-five miscellaneous names included above, other forty-five names and poems might be given—just as characteristic, and just as lacking in the elements of real distinction.

A SATIRE ANTHOLOGY. Collected by Carolyn Wells. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1905.

Carolyn Wells gives us in this another of her pleasing collections of poetry. In the introduction is offered a varying interpretation of the meaning and nature of satire which is more ingenious than classic. The author says among other things that "satire depends upon the reader. What seems satire to a pessimistic mind may seem merely good-natured chaff to an optimist." All of us who know and are fond of Carolyn Wells know her for a lovable optimist. We know, too, that she is a sincere worker; now much of her satire anthology is "good-natured chaff" without even a remote relationship to the genuine cruel satire. Shall we therefore yield her the human right to be occasionally a pessimist? Apart from the matter of a name, the collection is extremely enjoyable, and it is interesting to see a goodly number of poems of present day humorists, although the first number is Aristophanes' "Chorus of Women."

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#### BIOGRAPHY

##### THE APOTHEOSIS OF A LIVING WRITER.

THEODORE WATTS-DUNTON: POET, NOVELIST, CRITIC. By James Douglas. With twenty-four illustrations. New York: John Lane.

It is something unusual to tell the life of a man of letters while yet alive; and it is hardly questionable that the custom were also in this case better honored in the breach than in the observance. Not that Mr. Watts-Dunton will not ultimately deserve a biography; but it will then be, doubtless, a biography of a very different sort. Mr. Douglas is a true hero-worshipper;